

## POISON SUMAC SWAMP

UTM Ref. 17PV215734

Wood Township, Gravenhurst  
Status: Recommend Heritage Site

Area: 1.5 ha.

### *Site Characteristics*

This site is situated in the vicinity of Lower Eagle Lake. It is the only known location in Muskoka for Poison Sumac (*Rhus vernix*) which has the status of regionally rare. The population occurs in an area of tall shrub thicket swamp adjacent to a portage route between Middle Muldrew Lake and Lower Eagle Lake.

### *Significant Natural Values and Selection Criteria Met*

**1. Representation** - The area represents a vegetation community type with limited occurrence in the District of Muskoka and thus contributes to the full range of biotic representation. The vegetation community falls into the warmer/organic/very wet class of the site type matrix.

### *Ownership, Disturbance and Sensitivity*

Ownership of this site was not determined. The existing portage route bissects the area. The sensitivity of the site is related to the presence of a community type of limited representation and also represents a single occurrence of a regionally rare species with poisonous properties. Disturbance to the community should be minimized which may mean relocating the portage trail around the community to protect both it and the people who may unknowingly come in contact with the plant.